

South Dakota Hydroxychloroquine Supply Distribution FAQ

Updated May 20, 2020

Background

- The state of South Dakota received a supply of hydroxychloroquine from the national stockpile.
- This supply of hydroxychloroquine will be distributed to pharmacies upon request and can be used for patients with a **positive** COVID-19 test noted in the prescription.
- Pharmacies **are not** involved in dispensing hydroxychloroquine as part of South Dakota's statewide prophylactic clinical trial studying the drug, which is called Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for COVID-19 with Hydroxychloroquine (PEPCOH).

How do pharmacies access South Dakota's supply of hydroxychloroquine?

Pharmacies can access hydroxychloroquine by contacting their designated state distributing partner and requesting a supply of the drug. These partners include Sanford Health, Avera, Monument Health and Lewis Drug. Pharmacies received contact information for their designated distributing partner from the South Dakota Board of Pharmacy. Pharmacies should email pharmacyboard@state.sd.us if they need to verify their distributor.

Will all pharmacies receive hydroxychloroquine?

All pharmacies who request hydroxychloroquine will receive a supply of the drug.

How much supply will each pharmacy receive?

The amount of hydroxychloroquine each pharmacy receives will depend on the demand in their community. Pharmacies should request only what they expect to need and not stockpile the drug. The state has an adequate supply, and pharmacies can request additional drug at a later date if needed.

Is the state supply of hydroxychloroquine available for inpatient and outpatient use?

Yes. This supply can be used on patients with a positive COVID-19 test in inpatient and outpatient/ambulatory settings.

Can pharmacies return hydroxychloroquine they receive?

No. Once pharmacies receive the drug, they are responsible for storing it.

What are appropriate diagnoses for dispensing hydroxychloroquine from the state supply?

Hydroxychloroquine can be dispensed for patients with a positive COVID-19 test.

Can hydroxychloroquine from the state supply be dispensed for prophylactic purposes?

No. Hydroxychloroquine from the state supply can only be dispensed for patients with a positive COVID-19 test.

How will patients who are participating in the statewide prophylactic hydroxychloroquine clinical trial access the drug (or placebo)?

Participants in South Dakota's statewide prophylactic clinical trial studying hydroxychloroquine, which is called Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for COVID-19 with Hydroxychloroquine (PEPCOH), will access the drug (or a placebo) through the research team. Pharmacies are not involved in dispensing the hydroxychloroquine (or placebo) as part of PEPCOH. Additionally, patients with a positive COVID-19 test are not eligible for PEPCOH. Individuals interested in participating in the trial should call (605) 312-6023.

Are there obligations associated with dispensing hydroxychloroquine from the state supply?

Pharmacies must confirm a positive COVID-19 test (diagnosis included on a prescription/e-prescription is sufficient). If diagnosis is not provided, pharmacies should contact the provider to confirm diagnosis before dispensing. Prescribing providers must complete the [Emergency Use Authorization](#) (EUA) upon prescription. The FDA has prepared a [Clinician Fact Sheet](#) and a [Patient Fact Sheet](#) for use in prescribing Hydroxychloroquine.

What verification is needed for dispensing the drug?

A positive COVID-19 diagnosis on the prescription is required to dispense state-supplied hydroxychloroquine. If a positive COVID-19 diagnosis is not contained in the prescription, the pharmacy must clarify with the provider before dispensing the drug.

What happens if the prescriber does not provide the proper diagnosis?

If the dispensing pharmacy does not have a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis on the prescription from the provider, they should contact the provider for more information. If the dispensing pharmacy cannot verify with the provider, this supply should not be used. For additional guidance, refer to the [South Dakota Board of Pharmacy Policy Statement](#) regarding filling prescriptions for antimalarials and azithromycin during the COVID-19 emergency.

Can the drug be used for diagnosis outside of COVID-19?

The state-issued hydroxychloroquine is intended for patients with a positive COVID-19 test.

Will there be a dispense fee?

Retail pharmacies may charge a dispensing fee to the patient. Pharmacies cannot charge the patient for this drug if it comes from the state's supply.